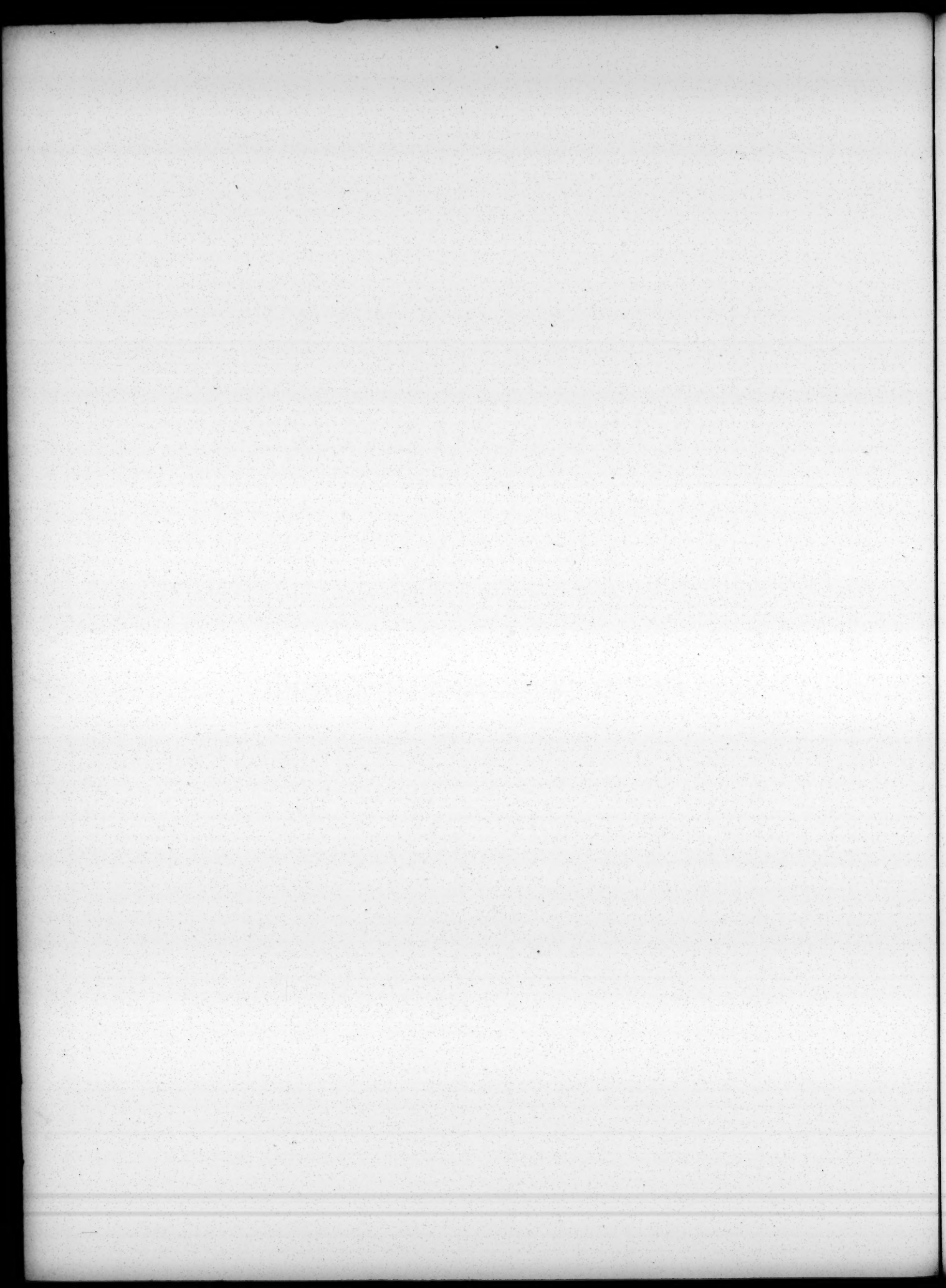


A
D I S C O U R S E
on
THE FISHES
eaten by
OUR SAVIOUR
WITH HIS DISCIPLES
after His
Resurrection from the Dead.

By
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A
DISCOURSE ON THE FISHES

Eaten by Our Saviour and His Disciples.

As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread.

Jesus saith unto them, "Bring of the fish which ye have now caught."

Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken.

Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise.

ST. JOHN, Chapter XXI., verse 9, 10, 11, 13.

THE Books of Scripture (as also those which are Apocryphal) are often silent or very sparing, in the particular names of fishes; or in setting them down in such manner as to leave the kinds of them without all doubt and reason for further inquiry. For when it declareth what fishes were allowed the Israelites for their food, they are only set down in general which have finns and scales; whereas in the account of quadrupeds and birds there is particular mention made of divers of them.

In the Book of *Tobit* that fish which he took out of the river is onely named a great fish, and so there remains much uncertainty to determine the species thereof. And even the fish, which swallowed Jonah, and is called a great fish, and commonly thought to be a great whale, is not received without all doubt ; while some learned men conceive it to have been none of our whales, but a large kind of *Lamia*.

And in this narration of *St. John*, the fishes are onely expressed by their bigness and number, not their names, and therefore it may seem undeterminable what they were : notwithstanding these fishes being taken in the great lake or sea of *Tiberias*, something may be probably stated therein. For since *Bellonius*, that diligent and learned traveller, informeth us, that the fishes of this lake were trouts, pikes, chevins, and tenches ; it may well be conceived that either all or some thereof are to be understood in this Scripture. And these kinds of fishes become large and of great growth, answerable unto the expression of Scripture, *One hundred and fifty and three great fishes* ; that is, large in their own kinds, and the largest kinds in this lake and fresh water, wherein no great variety, and of the larger sort of fishes, could be expected. For the River *Jordan*, running through this lake, falls

into the Lake of *Asphaltus*, and hath no mouth into the sea, which might admit of great fishes or greater variety to come up into it.

And out of the mouth of some of these forementioned fishes might the *Tribute money* be taken, when our Saviour, at *Capernaum*, seated upon the same lake, said unto *Peter*, “Go thou to the Sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh; and when thou hast opened his mouth thou shalt find a piece of money; that take and give them for thee and me.”

And this makes void that common conceit and tradition of the fish called *Faber marinus*, by some, a *Peter* or *Penny Fish*; which having two remarkable round spots upon either side, these are conceived to be the marks of *St. Peter's* fingers or signatures of the money; for though it hath these marks, yet is there no probability that such a kind of fish was to be found in the Lake of *Tiberias*, *Geneferah*, or *Galilee*, which is but sixteen miles long and six broad, and hath no communication with the sea; for this is a mere fish of the sea and salt water, and (though we meet with some thereof on our own coast) is not to be found in many seas.

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